

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02645

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR FR GV
SUBJ: FRANCO-GUINEAN RELATIONS

1. THE "CONTENTIEUX" WHICH HAVE TROUBLED FRANCO-GUINEAN RELATIONS FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES HAVE FINALLY BEEN SETTLED, ACCORDING TO QUAI AFRICAN AFFAIRS OFFICER COL. JEAN QUINQUENEL. THE FRENCH AND THE GUINEAN DELEGATION NOW IN PARIS HAVE AGREED TO "GLOBALIZE" THE CLAIMS OF EACH SIDE (LARGELY VETERANS AND FORMER FRENCH CIVIL SERVANTS PENSIONS OWED BY THE FRENCH AND INDEMNITIES FOR NATIONALIZED FRENCH FIRMS OWNED BY THE GUINEANS) AND TO CONSIDER THAT THEY ARE IN BALANCE, THUS, IN EFFECT, CANCELING EACH SIDE'S CLAIMS AGAINST THE OTHER.

2. QUINQUENEL SAID THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL REIMBURSE FRENCH CITIZENS FOR ASSETS NATIONALIZED. IT WILL ALSO OPEN A PAYMASTER'S OFFICE IN CONAKRY TO MAKE PENSION PAYMENTS FALLING DUE IN THE FUTURE. THE LATTER OPERATION WILL PROVIDE GUINEA WITH NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE. QUINQUENEL THOUGHT THAT AFTER THIS BREAKTHROUGH, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WOULD NOT BE LONG IN COMING.

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3. COMMENT: THE QUAI IS NATURALLY PLEASED WITH THE APPARENT SETTLEMENT OF THIS LONG-STANDING DISPUTE AND DARES HOPE THAT NORMAL RELATIONS MAY RESULT. HOWEVER, SEKOU'S TREATMENT OF THE PEULS AND DIALLO TELL'S FATE, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE WIDELY-HELD CONVICTION THAT SEKOU IS MAD, ARE FACTORS WHICH MAKE EVEN THE MOST OPTIMISTIC OBSERVERS HERE LESS THAN SANGUINE ABOUT FRANCE'S ABILITY

TO MAINTAIN REASONABLY GOOD RELATIONS OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD. NONETHELESS, THE OLD REFRAIN THAT GUINEA HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR OUT-PACING IVORY COAST IN DEVELOPMENT IS ONCE AGAIN HEARD IN THE PARIS AIR.

RUSH

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Message Attributes

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